

In the Claims

1 - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A frame over which woven wire mesh is to be stretched and secured to form a sieving screen which can be used to screen solids from drilling mud recovered from down-hole when drilling for oil or gas comprising:

a rectilinear moulded plastics frame having edge regions by which it is secured in place in a shaker and defining a plurality of rectilinear windows formed by an orthogonal array of intersecting ribs also of moulded plastics material

wherein only some of the ribs are internally reinforced by rigid metal members which extend orthogonally between members which define a rectilinear sub-frame, some of the ribs not being reinforced

wherein the rectilinear subframe includes members that are internally reinforced by rigid metal having a hollow box cross-section

the orthogonal reinforcing members being secured at their ends to the hollow box cross-section members forming the rectilinear subframe and the ends of the latter are joined at the four corners of the sub-frame, so that not only are the edge regions forming the perimeter of the screen frame reinforced, but so also are some of the orthogonally intersecting ribs, so as thereby to produce a rigid frame for the screen.

14. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 13 wherein the internal reinforcement of those ribs which are to be reinforced comprises a hollow box-section metal members.

15. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 13 wherein the internal reinforcement of those ribs which are to be reinforced comprises metal I-beam cross section members.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 15 wherein the I-beam members have the same height as the height of the box-section members forming the sub frame.
18. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 13 wherein the box-section members of the perimeter reinforcing frame have a rectangular cross-section.
19. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 13 wherein the box-section members of the perimeter reinforcing frame have a square cross-section.
20. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sub-frame is encapsulated in the same plastics material as the moulded orthogonal array of intersecting ribs is formed.
21. (previously presented) A screen for a shaker constructed from GRP material moulded around a frame as claimed in claim 13 and having at least one layer of woven wire mesh stretched thereover and embedded therein.
22. (previously presented) A screen as claimed in claim 21 when fitted in a shaker.
23. (previously presented) A screen and shaker combination as claimed in claim 22 wherein the screen is clamped in position in a shaker basket using a pneumatic seal.
24. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 13 wherein C-shaped clips are fitted to the box section edge frame members of the sub frame before the latter is inserted into a mould tool, so that the edge members are stood-off

from the inside of the mould tool, to permit GRP material to encapsulate the frame members during the moulding process.

25. (previously presented) A frame as claimed in claim 24 wherein open ends of the box-section members are plugged with metal or GRP material before the frame is inserted into the mould tool.
26. (previously presented) A screen and shaker combination as claimed in claim 22 wherein the screen is clamped in position by wedges driven into position between abutments protruding internally from the shaker basket and the upper face of edge regions of the screen.